



# The Webb County Link

A Publication Of The Webb County Public Information Office

March 2016

## In This Issue

- \* Veterans Village Pg 1
- \* Fire Department Acquires New Fire Trucks Pg 1
- \* CSCD Satellite Offices Now Open Pg 2
- \* 2016 Elderly Easter Outing Pg 2
- \* National Nutrition Month Pg 2
- \* Gateway Rotary Donation Pg 3
- \* Community Center Event Roundup Pg 3
- \* CAA Receives Grant Pg 4
- \* Webb County Blood Drive Pg 4
- \* County Engineer Gives Update on Projects Pg 4
- \* Honorary Junior Deputy Sheriff Pg 4

## Important Dates

- \* 4/11 Jury Duty
- \* 4/11 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- \* 4/13 New Employee Orientation
- \* 4/13 JP, Pct. 4 Night Court 5pm—8pm
- \* 4/14 Safety Committee Meeting
- \* 4/20 10th Annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon
- \* 4/25 Jury Duty
- \* 4/25 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am

## Veterans Village



Earlier this month, the Webb County Commissioners Court took the first steps into implementing a pioneering plan to help local veterans. Spearheaded by Commissioner Jaime Canales, the project's goal is to develop a Veterans Village concept that would provide affordable housing for Webb County Veterans to ensure a successful transition into society after combat. This innovative project is being led by Webb County with partnerships with Texas A & M University, the Army Reserve Engagement Cell & 350th Civil Affairs Command, City of Laredo, Laredo Housing Authority, and other interested participants.

## Fire Department Acquires New Fire Trucks

The Webb County Volunteer Fire Department recently received two new emergency vehicles designed to complement their current fleet. A quick attack response unit to assist with H2O capabilities and rescue extrication equipment for fast response, and a brush truck with 1000 gallon capacity for wildland fire emergencies in rural Webb County. This new equipment will be housed at the Central Fire Station in Laredo on HWY 59, and will be assigned to the Los Botines Fire Station when planned construction is completed sometime next year. Award funding of \$322,759 for this equipment was obtained through the Texas Department of Agriculture TCDP Contract with the help from Mr. Juan Vargas and the Webb County Economic Development Department.





## CSCD Satellite Offices Now Open

After many months of hard work, the satellite office of the Webb County Community Supervision & Corrections Department (CSCD) is now open. The department held an open house for elected officials and department heads of its newly-renovated satellite office located in south Laredo. Visitors were taken on a tour of the facility and were able to learn more about the many functions and life-changing work that CSCD does. "We are truly thankful to the Commissioners Court and Board of Judges," said CSCD Director Melinda Vidauri, "Their support, coupled with the assistance of various county departments, has helped us reach this point. By having two locations available, we will be able to provide a convenient and comfortable setting for our clients." The facility is equipped with offices where clients can meet with their parole officers, a classroom for specially-held classes, drug testing lab, and offices for the department's absconder apprehension unit. Staffed with fifteen probation officers, the south satellite office handles over 1,200 cases focused primarily on felony charges and pretrial diversion. The pretrial diversion program provides some first-time offenders with the opportunity to circumvent having to go through the criminal court system and instead participate in this program. Participants report to the program officer as directed and are referred to local community resources that are stipulated in the terms of the program intended to help them become law abiding citizens. Participants are referred to this program by the District Attorney's Office or ordered to participate by a criminal court. The program length can be up to twenty-four months and participants must pay a program fee. Offenders are successfully discharged after complying with special terms of the program and paying the program fees.



## National Nutrition Month

In celebration of National Nutrition Month, the Webb County Administrative Services encouraged county employees to eat healthy by inviting them to enjoy a healthy fruit snack. March is National Nutrition Month, and when the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics reminds everyone to return to the basics of healthy eating. Learn more by visiting [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).



## 2016 Elderly Easter Outing

The Webb County Sheriff's Office hosted a fun-filled picnic day at El Ranchito with music for the young at heart in our community. This was part of the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together program (S.A.L.T.) as the Sheriff's Office continuously maintains an open communication with the elderly to ensure they receive the adequate information. The goal is to be proactive and keep them from becoming a victim of crime.





## Gateway Rotary Donation



Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina, Judge Tano Tijerina, and the Larga Vista Community Center proudly accepted a donation of tables and chairs from Gateway Rotary. The donation will be used to increase accessibility to center services, such as the weekly GED and ESL classes, and to better serve all the children that participate in the Kids Café program. "Gateway Rotary has always been a proud contributor to alleviating the needs in our community," said Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina, "I'm a firm believer that education is the key that opens all doors, and this donation will help the area children and community members reach their educational goals."

## Community Center Event Roundup



Elderly members of **La Presa Community Center** enjoyed the Easter festivities in good company and with beautiful Spring weather. The participants celebrated the holiday with music, food, and a even a piñata.



Hopping into the spring season, the **Bruni Community Center** hosted an Easter basket and Easter egg hunt for Quad City Kids as well as an Easter Egg Hunt Luncheon for the elderly from the Quad City area.



Commissioner Wawi Tijerina and the **Larga Vista Community Center** had an Easter Party for the children of the Hwy 359 area, 54 baskets were given away and the children enjoyed pizza, a piñata, and a visit from the Easter bunny.



Members of the **Fernando A Salinas Community Center** revisited beautiful memories created at the River Drive Mall between 1970 and 2014. These memories will forever be cherished turning the page into a new era!



The **Ladrillito Activity Center** celebrated their 1st Year Anniversary with an Easter Egg Hunt Celebration! Commissioner Jaime A. Canales greeted over 200 children who were anxiously waiting for a chance to hunt Easter eggs. The kids also enjoyed popcorn, raspas, pony rides, bounce house, and hitting two candy-filled piñatas. The Easter celebration closed with the play "Rapunzel" by Wonderland Productions sponsored by the Webb County Public Defenders Office.



Submit your department stories for next month! E-mail your story along with any pictures to [webbpio@webbcountytx.gov](mailto:webbpio@webbcountytx.gov). Stories will be edited for style, grammar, and length. Please be advised that, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that all stories will be publicized.



## CAA Receives Grant

The Webb County Community Action Agency (CAA) was recently awarded \$1,100,174 in grant monies to benefit low-income individuals. The agency will be using these funds to provide electricity assistance for utility assistance and household crisis, including disconnection notices, as part of its Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), a utility assistance program. Disconnection notices will be paid on a first come, first serve basis for eligible clients. CEAP is designed to assist low income households in meeting their immediate energy needs and to encourage consumers to control energy costs for years to come through energy education. The program is designed to pay energy consumption bills for eligible clients for up to eight months for those who qualify. "This is great news for the residents of Webb County who really need the assistance offered by the program," said CAA Director Ricardo Martinez, "We plan to assist hundreds of households through this grant and improve the quality of life for our Webb County residents." The Community Action Agency invites all low-income individuals to apply for electricity assistance, with a priority given to the elderly, disabled, and the unemployed.



## Webb County Blood Drive

The Webb County family came together in support of life. The Administrative Services Department, in conjunction with the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, hosted a blood drive at the historic Webb County Courthouse. The blood drive was in honor of Melany Medina, administrative assistant at the Planning Department, who has had to undergo several blood transfusions. Melany shared her experiences with a group of donors and stressed the importance of donating blood. Thanks to the incredible outpouring of support from the county family, the blood drive went over its goal of blood donors.



## Honorary Junior Deputy Sheriff

Sheriff Cuellar made the lifelong dream of local child a come true this month. Marky Gonzalez was deputized as an honorary W.C.S.O. Jr. Deputy Sheriff, a goal he's been working on for a while. Marky recently helped care for his mom, who is a breast cancer survivor. We're proud of you, Marky! Continue making Webb County proud!



## County Engineer Gives Update on Projects

Webb County Engineer Luis Perez Garcia was guest speaker of the Laredo Rotary Club and informed attendees of the various projects taking place around the county. Perez Garcia discussed projects in the downtown area and then gave updates on other projects in the outlying areas that the county is actively working on.